HIEIZAN & BIWAKO
A corridor of mountain, water and shine
Hieizan – at the roots of Japanese Buddhism, Extolled as a "temple at the foundation of Japanese Buddhism"

Situated on the boundary between Shiga and Kyoto prefectures, Hieizan is a beautiful bell of the peaks. It measures about 88 kilometers north and south, and its highest peak is Ochiho, which rises 885 meters above sea level. It constitutes a unique natural monument. The whole of the mountain is covered by the32 temples of the Hieizan Temple, whose grounds spread over an area of about 100 square kilometers central around Ochiho.

At the foundation of this sacred mountain is a Buddhist Temple, whose construction dates back to 594 when the monk Sosakus, who founded the Japanese school of the Nihon Sect and has been named as the "Daimonji-dai Goshu" (Great Teacher and Transcendent) of the Hieizan Temple, built the first Shito-ji, which later became the Kenko-ji Temple later.

Thereafter, many monks such as Hoku, Ikkyu, and Rogen erected numerous other shrines in the three areas of Bendi, Sawara, and Yoshihira, and the temple increased.

At its height, Hieizan was a center of culture for more than 1,600 years and witnessed many historical events, including the foundation of different sects and schools of Buddhism, including Hieizan, Enko, Kyozen, Shodo, and Shinshu. In the same way, it is the birthplace of Chinese Buddhism. These temples, which are all that remain of the "Hieizan-ha" school of Buddhism, are known to be the "Hieizan-ha" school of Buddhism. The temple is a living example of how the mountain was transformed into a spiritual haven.

As such, the temple complex is one of the largest in Japan, and is situated in the heart of the Hieizan Mountains.

Biiwako, Japan’s biggest lake, Giving birth to life and bounty

Biiwako, Japan’s biggest lake, is located in the middle of the country and is known for its crystal-clear waters and abundant fish life. It is a popular destination for both tourists and locals alike.

The lake is surrounded by beautiful mountains and is a popular spot for fishing and boating.

The lake is also home to a variety of plants and animals, making it a vital part of the local ecosystem.

It is a place of natural beauty and a source of inspiration for both local and international visitors.

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Hieizan Enryakuji Temple

To-do area

The Todai-ji (Eastern Pagoda) is the landmark of the Enryakuji Temple, which was established in 749 by Sister Kobo. It contains the Kongo-Chu-ji hall, which is the temple's main building, and has the nation's biggest statue, which is a colossal bronze of Amida, the 100-foot-tall, 475-ton Buddha. The Todai-ji is located on the north side of Mount Hiei. The temple has been designated as an important cultural property by the Japanese government.

Konpon Chudo - Natural Treasure

This is the most important temple building on Mount Hiei. It is one of the largest wooden structures in the world, and is situated on the south slope of the mountain. The main temple is flanked by two smaller temples, which are connected by a covered walkway. The temple is open to visitors, and a number of religious rituals are performed here.

Amida-do

This main hall is dedicated to the statue of Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Light, and is considered one of the most sacred places in Japan. The temple is open to visitors, and a number of religious rituals are performed here.

Hokke So Ji-in

This temple was established in 1382 and is dedicated to the statue of Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Light, and is considered one of the most sacred places in Japan. The temple is open to visitors, and a number of religious rituals are performed here.

Ninai-do

This temple, also known as the "Jodo Shinshu Temple," is dedicated to the statue of Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Light, and is considered one of the most sacred places in Japan. The temple is open to visitors, and a number of religious rituals are performed here.

Shaka-do

This temple, also known as the "Daisho-in Temple," is dedicated to the statue of Shaka, the Buddha of the Past, and is considered one of the most sacred places in Japan. The temple is open to visitors, and a number of religious rituals are performed here.

Yase

Spreading out as the base of Mount Hiei, Yase is a sacred area blessed with a number of shrines and temples. It is also the site of the "Tengoku Shrine," a shrine that honors the "Heavenly Gods." It is surrounded by the beautiful scenery of Mount Hiei, and is home to a number of ancient temples and shrines.

Biwako

Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, offers different types of enjoyment depending on the time of year. The most enjoyable time is during the spring and summer, and is connected to the city of Otsu, which is known as the "Gateway to Biwako." The lake is surrounded by a number of ancient temples and shrines, and is a popular destination for tourists.

Yase Momiji-no Komichi

This park is a popular destination for tourists, especially in the fall, when the leaves change color. It is situated on the north side of Mount Hiei, and is home to a number of ancient temples and shrines.

Takano River

The Takano River is a popular destination for tourists, especially in the fall, when the leaves change color. It is situated on the north side of Mount Hiei, and is home to a number of ancient temples and shrines.

Yanagasaki Lakeside Park

This park is a popular destination for tourists, especially in the fall, when the leaves change color. It is situated on the north side of Mount Hiei, and is home to a number of ancient temples and shrines.

Michigan Cruise Courses to choose from

Enjoy a leisurely meal and show on the 80-minute Michigan 80

Enjoy a sightseeing cruise around the lake on the 180-minute Michigan 60

Enjoy the night view, dinner and a show on the 180-minute Michigan Night
Yokawa area

Yokawa area

1. Yokawa Chū-do

This is the main hall of the Yokawa area, and is located at the Konpon Kinkow-do. It is distinguished by its ornate main gateway and the impressive doorknobs in the ‘nambutsudo’ tradition. The hall was dedicated to the Shinto Shrine in 1695 by the Banbu family. It is also known for the curious and intricate doorknobs as well as the ornate gates. It is said to be the oldest wooden structure in Japan, and is covered in one of the largest wood-carved ‘panda-gan’ patterns in the country.

2. Konpon Nyoho-to

The Konpon Nyoho-to is located on the hill where the original Nakasendo route entered the town of Yokawa. The building was completed in 1695 by the Banbu family, and is dedicated to the Shinto Shrine. It is also known for its ornate and intricate doorknobs, as well as the ornate gates. It is said to be the oldest wooden structure in Japan, and is covered in one of the largest wood-carved ‘panda-gan’ patterns in the country.

3. Ganzan Daishi-do(Shiki-ko-do)

Located in front of the entrance of the Shinto Shrine, the Ganzan Daishi-do is a small temple dedicated to the Shinto faith. It is known for its ornate and intricate doorknobs, as well as the ornate gates. It is said to be the oldest wooden structure in Japan, and is covered in one of the largest wood-carved ‘panda-gan’ patterns in the country.

4. Sakamoto

Sakamoto is a town known for its beautiful countryside and its many temples and shrines. It is also known for its sakura (cherry blossom) festivals, which attract visitors from all over the country. The town is located in the Nakatsugawa area, which was part of the ancient Nakasendo route.

5. Hoshino Resort L’Hotel de Hiei

Located on the top of Mount Hiei, this hotel offers stunning views of the surrounding hills and mountains. It is also known for its luxurious spa and wellness facilities, as well as its excellent restaurant.

6. Biwako Hotel

Located in the heart of the town of Hieizan, this hotel offers comfortable rooms and excellent service. It is also located near the Hieizan temple and the Hieizan Shrine, which are both popular attractions.

7. Enryakujii Kaikan

This temple is located on the top of Mount Hiei and is known for its beautiful gardens and its impressive architecture. It is also located near the Hieizan temple and the Hieizan Shrine, which are both popular attractions.

8. Ogoto-Onsen

Located in the town of Hieizan, this hot spring is known for its natural, clear water. It is also known for its traditional wooden architecture and its relaxing atmosphere.

Guide of a stay

The top of Mt. Hiei

The summit of Mount Hiei offers panoramic views of the surrounding hills and mountains. It is also known for its beautiful temples and shrines, as well as its excellent restaurants and cafes.

Garden Museum Hiei

This museum is located in the town of Hieizan and is known for its beautiful gardens and its impressive architecture. It is also located near the Hieizan temple and the Hieizan Shrine, which are both popular attractions.

Yumemisouka

This restaurant is located in the town of Hieizan and is known for its excellent cuisine and its friendly service. It is also located near the Hieizan temple and the Hieizan Shrine, which are both popular attractions.

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Hosokawa City

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Shigain Monzeki Temple

This temple is located on the top of Mount Hiei and is known for its beautiful gardens and its impressive architecture. It is also located near the Hieizan temple and the Hieizan Shrine, which are both popular attractions.

Shiga Prefecture

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The information presented here is as of January 2018. Please note in advance that it is subject to change, depending on the circumstances.